

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 129 (2-13)

February 4, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 129 was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Chairperson Mullis welcomed special guests Arden McClune, Director of Parks & Recreation and Paul Magness, Chief of Capital Planning and Development, Department of Parks & Recreation; she also acknowledged Lt. Hugh John Dougherty of the Sheriff's Office and welcomed Harford County Councilman Dion Guthrie. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Yvonne Baldwin, Betty Byrne, Bob Frisch and James B. Lyons III. Members absent were Vincent Rabenau and Ron Sollod. Gloria Moon moved and Bob Frisch seconded that the January minutes be approved.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Lieutenant Hugh John Dougherty stated that there is good news for Sector 10; robberies are down, and there have been 9 burglaries and only one motor vehicle theft so far this year. He said the Sheriff's Office is still trying to find a way to pull out information that the council wants for the meeting. He advised that community members may navigate the crime report website by going to www.crimereports.com. Paula thanked him for his presentation.

Arden McClune, Director of Parks & Recreation; Paul Magness, Chief of Capital Planning and Development

Paul Magness explained that Parks & Recreation is divided into four primary areas of responsibility: Administration, Recreation Services, Capital Planning and Development, and Facilities Operations. The department is responsible for operating and maintaining space, and providing a comprehensive program of leisure opportunities and activities for the citizens. The department is working on land preservation and parks and recreation plans. The plans are required to be done every six years. The Parks and Recreation Draft Plan will be on the website and will be presented to the chairs of the local councils. If community members are interested in the plan, they can go on the website at www.harfordcountymd.gov/parks_rec/. The department is interested in hearing from the community about the plan. Paula thanked Arden McClune and Paul Magness for their presentation to the local council.

Board of Education Update by Local Councilman Bob Frisch

Bob Frisch stated that the Board of Education has finally approved a budget. The budget must now go to the County Executive and County Council for approval. The school system will get approximately 16 to 17 million dollars from the State. Based on a formula of the County's wealth,

Harford County is being hurt by the formula. The county lost money in the reduction of students in the system. Amendments for School safety will cost the system approximately \$2 million. The school system has done a fair amount to budget resources. Over the past year, over 100 classroom positions have been cut. Board member Frisch stated that Superintendent Tomback announced his resignation from the school system to be effective at the end of the school year. The board will take its time in selecting a new superintendent. Bob Frisch was thanked by the Chair, Paula Mullis.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie said that the Governor signed into law House Bill 987, which requires 10 Maryland counties, including Harford, to collect a storm water remediation fee from taxpayers to fund the implementation of local storm water management practices and stream and wetland restoration projects. The estimated cost of \$90 million required by 2017 can place an annual fee on taxpayers for as much as \$400 per home. Dion said it is looking good that a transfer station will not be built in the County at all. Days Cove in Baltimore County may be a good place, since it is an incinerator plant, to send Harford County's trash. Dion recommended Gloria Moon for the budget advisory committee. He said she is knowledgeable, hard working and an excellent representative for the County.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community Members

James B. Lyons III said that the Volunteer Fire Company is working on an expansion program. They have a new engine to keep up the fleet. He also said that their response time to an emergency is under a minute. Overall, they have a good group of volunteers. Training of new volunteers has been extended. It is also a big commitment. There are several fund drives that keep the volunteer fire companies alive.

Paula Mullis offered congratulations to the community concerning the Waste Transfer Station. She said that if the transfer station is not built in the County, it will be due to the citizens' voices being heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey